near the kitchen owner. However, everthing is repaired and restored to the satisfaction of the house owner as soon as PNG connection is completed.

Price of natural gas

2245. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mechanism in fixing the sale price of natural gas;

(b) the prices of natural gas during the last two years, month-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no market regulator in place to determine gas prices;

(d) whether any request from the States received to set up market regulator so as to fix price for natural gas instead of depending on the market forces;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The price of gas produced by ONGC and OIL from their existing nominated gas fields is administered by the Government. Gas produced by Joint Venture (JV) fields and from NELP blocks is determined in terms of the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) signed between the Government and the field operators.

(b) The price of APM gas during 2003-04 and 2004-05, and up to 30 June, 2005 during the current year, was Rs. 2850/MCM, except for the north-east region for which it was Rs. 1700/MCM. Effective 1.7.2005, the gas price has been increased to Rs. 3200/MCM for region other than the north-east region, and to Rs. 1920/MCM for the north-east region.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Government are proposing to set up a Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under a Statute to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportaion, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of

crude oil and natural gas, to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive markets, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The draft PNGRB Bill is under the consideration of the Government. The Transport and Mines sectors are not covered in the draft PNGRB Bill.

Amount sanctioned to Chhattisgarh

†2246. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2947 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd August, 2005 and state:

(a) the reasons for not releasing the full amount by the Central Government sactioned for Chhattisgarh;

(b) the actual amount demanded by the State Government during the above period;

(c) the total amount lapsed during the above period, year-wise; and

(d) the details of the achievements made by spending the above amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Ministry of Tourism sanctions central financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure in various States including the State of Chhattisgarh in consultation with them. While sanctioning these projects the first instalment of 30% of the sanctioned amount is released to start the work. However, from the year 2004-05 this limit has been increased to 80%. The balance amount is released on submission of utilization certificate and other required documents, as per guidelines.

(b) Every year the projects are prioritized in consultation with the State Government under the following schemes:

(1) Product Infrastructure and Destination Development

(2) Integrated development of Tourism Circuits

(3) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating projects.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.